



Ninth Coast Guard District
Public Affairs/Detroit Spill J.I.C.
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Coast Guard responds to oil spill in Detroit

Containment, reducing impact are focus of clean-up efforts

DETROIT – The Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Detroit is responding to the discovery of an oil spill in the River Rouge.

Scattered patches of oil were found on the River Rouge yesterday, and have been detected as far south as the Detroit River Light on Lake Erie. One source of the spilled oil is a storm drain collection basin west of the Fort Street Bridge in Detroit.

The River Rouge was closed to boating traffic earlier today, but has been reopened on a limited basis. The mouth of the river has been boomed off, and several spots along the Rouge and Detroit rivers have collection booms in place where spilled oil can be collected and recycled. Some environmentally sensitive areas, such as the Humbug Marsh and Pointe Mouillee, have booms deployed to protect them.

The Coast Guard's main priorities right now are public safety, oil recovery, and containing the spill to reduce the impact on the shoreline, especially to sensitive environmental areas. A pollution response contractor, Marine Pollution Control, has been hired to perform the clean-up.

The company is cleaning the River Rouge and Detroit River of oil using booms, an oil skimmer, and a vacuum truck.

The Coast Guard is working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to ensure proper collection and disposal of the oil. A Joint Information Center has been set-up to handle media inquiries, call (313) 568-9486.

Claims Claims for spill damage to boats, docks and shoreline property should be directed to the National

Pollution Funds center, 1-800-280-7118.

Shipping traffic note Marine traffic is being impeded by the malfunction of a vertical lift bridge that crosses the River Rouge at Jefferson Street. It is expected to be fixed by dusk.

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For more information, contact the Joint Information Center at (313) 568-9486.